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Defeat or victory?

THE QUESTION haunting everyone at this dramatic stage of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations is: which cost would be greater, that of success or that of failure?

For the Arabs, there are very real dangers if President Carter succeeds in forcing Egypt and Israel to sign a treaty along the lines of the draft which the two sides have been bating back and forth for months now. By neutralising the western front against Israel, by putting American power solely at the disposal of a re-armed Egypt and an over-armed Israel, by sealing the future of the Palestinians and East Jerusalem within the legalistic confines of a treaty guaranteed by one of the Great Powers, such a treaty would narrow Arab options for reclaiming their occupied territories and their national rights. It would also confront the Arab Nation with the difficult choice of quarantining its most populous member.

On the other hand, it would present the Arab World with an opportunity creatively to direct its energies towards seeking an alternative path to peace. Camp David has already had a galvanising effect on Arab unity and has roused the Arab world from the torpor induced by five years of "no war, no peace." At the same time, the very determinants which have spurred the U.S. to redouble its efforts to impose a settlement—the revolution in Iran, instability in the world oil market, heightened concern about Soviet influence in the region—can now be exploited, with tacit but firm diplomacy, in order to produce a settlement which satisfies Arab aspirations.

Even if a treaty is signed during President Carter's Middle East visit, for example, it will not be too late for a united Arab World to suggest alternative approaches: one possibility is the reconvening of the Geneva Conference (having agreed to a plan, however spurious, for Palestinian "autonomy," can Israel any longer refuse to sit down with the Palestinians?); another is a European approach (spearheaded by France, which has, even on the eve of Mr. Carter's trip, reminded the world that no solution which ignores the central issue of Palestinian national rights can hope to succeed). Or, we might suggest, the Saudis—whose concerns are at the forefront of American thinking these days—might very simply offer to guarantee oil production and prices and a measure of regional stability, in return for an American commitment to open a dialogue with the PLO and endorse the return of East Jerusalem (Washington has never recognised Jerusalem as Israel's "capital") to Arab sovereignty.

In other words, like President Kennedy ignoring the more bellicose of Khrushchev's messages during the Cuban missile crisis, we might ignore the Camp David treaty altogether and seek to construct a new path to peace paved with all the positive building-blocks which we can quarry out of the present impasse.

Otherwise, we have no choice but to consider Camp David as a provocative conspiracy against the Arab Nation. There is ample evidence to suggest that it is just that. But such conspiracies have existed since 1947 and before, sometimes aided and abetted, however unwittingly, by actions of our own. Let us neither allow ourselves to be painted, nor paint ourselves, into a corner over this one.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

JORDANIAN PAPERS THURSDAY editorially comment on President Carter's trip to the Middle East.

AL RA'I believes that the gravest issue that has come up since the 1973 war is the talk that is now going around about the impending Soviet danger to the regional security of the Middle East. By ignoring the rest of the Arab states as well as the Palestinian issue, the paper adds, the Camp David partners are trying to turn the Arab arena into a testing ground for "regional security." In the American sense the paper says that the Arabs will not submit to the will of the Camp David partners. If forecasts that the U.S. interest which Carter is trying to promote by concluding a separate Egyptian-Israeli agreement, will eventually collapse.

AL DUSTOUR thinks that President Carter's trip to the Middle East is not actually aimed at achieving peace. What he is after is the setting up of a military pact which would satisfy Israel and the U.S. Jewish electorate. Such a pact would also serve to intimidate the Gulf states, thus indirectly forcing them to continue their oil shipments to the United States.

Finally, and through the display of power in the Middle East, the United States is trying to prove to the Soviet Union—particularly after the fall of the monarchy in Iran—that it is still a force to be reckoned with, the paper says.

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Her Majesty Queen Noor at the opening of a cerebral palsy centre in the King Hussein Medical Centre Thursday.

Queen Noor opens cerebral palsy centre

AMMAN, March 8 (JNA)—Her Majesty Queen Noor today opened a cerebral palsy centre at the King Hussein Medical Centre.

After the opening ceremony the Queen toured the centre's various sections, met children undergoing treatment there and was briefed on the various services.

The centre, sponsored by the Cerebral Palsy Foundation is

expected to help the nearly 5000 children in the country who need treatment.

The opening ceremony was attended by Health Minister Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, the chairwoman of the foundation's board of directors, Mrs. Layla Abdul Hamid Sharaf, as well as a number of other officials.

Abu Dhabi energy meeting endorses Jordanian proposals

AMMAN, March 8 (JNA)—Minister of Industry and Commerce, Dr. Nijmeddin Dajani, returned here today after taking part in the first Arab Energy Conference in Abu Dhabi. He said the week-long conference has endorsed a Jordanian proposal for the establishment of an Arab energy commission that would coordinate Arab countries' efforts in developing energy resources. The commission will be working in close cooperation with the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and the Arab Economic Council, Dr. Dajani said.

The conference discussed the effects of international events on Arab Energy resources and the projected energy needs of Arab states in the next 20 years, Dr. Dajani added. He said the conference also looked into prospects for developing solar and nuclear power as alternative sources of energy, and adopted a number of recommendations for increasing

Taking part in the conference were delegates from all Arab countries. OAPEC, the Arab Economic and Social Council as well as Arab and foreign specialists in energy and mineral resources.

International Women's Day Celebrated

AMMAN, March 8 (JNA)—The Jordanian Women's Association celebrated International Women's Day today.

During the celebration, which took place at the association's hall this evening, several officials from the association as well as a woman

Dr. Nijmeddin Dajani

research work in this field.

The Jordanian delegation presented a working paper to the conference dealing with the energy situation in Jordan and research work in progress to develop solar energy in cooperation with other Arab countries, the minister said.

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Food standards to be controlled

AMMAN, March 8 (JNA)—Ministry of Health officials were instructed today to apply strict control measures to foodstuffs on sale at retail outlets throughout Jordan. The object is to make certain that food sold to the public is fit for consumption and that the expiration date on canned and frozen foods has not

lapsed.

These measures come on the heels of an inspection campaign by the department of standards and measures of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce which revealed that supermarkets and grocers were selling food to their customers beyond the date of expiration.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Photo Exhibit

The French Cultural Centre is displaying a photo exhibit on "80 Years of French Cinema" during regular hours.

Art Exhibit

The Goethe Institute, in cooperation with the Dept. of Culture and Arts, presents an exhibition of paintings by Khalil Ghneim. The exhibit is at the Goethe Institute, open from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

French Film

The French Cultural Centre presents a feature length documentary on ecology entitled "Le territoire des autres" by Francois Bel, Gerard Vienne and Michel Fano. The film starts at 7:30 p.m.

Studying in Britain

The British Council is giving a tape/slide presentation followed by a discussion for those interested in studying in Britain. The session is from 9:00 to 12:00 a.m.

TODAY'S WEATHER

The weather will continue to be cold, cloudy and rainy with westerly fresh winds. In the afternoon the weather will start to be better with scattered showers. In Aqaba Gulf it will be partly cloudy with the probability of slight showers; winds will be northerly moderate and seas will be calm.

Temperatures

Amman
Aqaba
Jordan Valley
Deserts

Overnight minimum
4
10
9
4

Daytime maximum
11
20
17
13

The rain that finally came!

By Ron Cathell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, March 8—it finally came. Just what everyone had been hoping for, and some praying for.

Heavy rains, powered by winds gusting up to 55 km per hour drenched Jordan Thursday much to the delight of the farmers. The showers arrived in time to save the wheat crops in the western portion of Jordan, although too late to save the crop in the east, along the desert's fringe. The rain has made it possible for the previously threatened summer crops to get a good start in April.

The wet weather was caused by a frontal system passing over the area followed by a depression. An estimated 50 millimetres of rain fell on Amman and about 200 million cubic metres of water from the storm have accumulated throughout the country. "If this amount were translated into terms of money, it would be worth JD 25 million for how much it has replenished our water reserves and how much it has saved our crops," Dr. Ali Abbadah, director of the Department of Meteorology, told the Jordan Times today.

The storm has made up 50 per cent of the deficiency in rainfall this year. "Another two or three rainstorms will put us in real good shape," Dr. Abbadah said.

But so far, there aren't many indications to show that more rain

is on the way soon. The only encouraging sign for now is a tiny depression hovering over northern Italy which could move in this direction. If it were to develop, and that's a big IF, it might be here in about three days. "It's a good possibility, but it's much too early to know for sure," the weather expert said.

In general, the weather will improve, the temperature is expected to reach a high of 12-13 degrees on Friday; winds will stop howling but light gusts will remain and by the afternoon the sun may be shining through mostly clear skies. By Saturday, Jordan should be enjoying beautiful blues skies as usual.

Prince Hassan to visit Indonesia this month

JAKARTA, March 8 (R)—Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan Bin Talal is expected to arrive on March 25 in a five-day visit to Indonesia.

Prince Hassan will deliver a special message to President Suharto from King Hussein of Jordan, his elder brother, Indonesia's Antara News Agency said.

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Jordan Week

Calendar

(Week of March 9-15)

EXHIBITIONS

CONTINUING: A display of photos and posters commemorating 80 years of French cinema can be seen at the French Cultural Centre every day till the end of the month. Open during hours.

* An exhibition of paintings by Khalil Ghneim

Iran's oil exports expected to be cut by more than half

TEHRAN, March 8 (R)--The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said today it expected the country's future oil exports to be not more than three million barrels a day.

With the exception of "those countries which we have clearly excluded"--Israel and South Africa--Iran was willing to negotiate long-term or spot sales with anyone, NIOC executive Mr. Reza Azimi told a press conference.

Iran, which under the monarchy was the world's second largest exporter after Saudi Arabia, is now producing just under two million barrels per day, with 700,000 barrels kept for domestic consumption.

Kosygin to begin India visit at critical time

NEW DELHI, March 8 (R)--Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin's latest visit to India comes at a time when India is reappraising its relationship with the other communist giant, China, in the wake of the Chinese attack on Vietnam.

Mr. Kosygin arrives in Delhi tomorrow for a six-day stay which will include private talks with Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai and an address to a special session of the two houses of the Indian parliament.

Mr. Desai's government has so far maintained a delicate balance in relations with the three major powers influential in the region--China, the Soviet Union and the United States.

But the Chinese invasion of Vietnam clearly embarrassed India and set back a friendship that had been carefully cultivated by both sides over the past three years, healing the scars left by China's similar invasion of Indian border areas in 1962.

The latest attack was launched while Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was in China on the first ministerial visit in nearly 20 years and he cut short his stay and flew home to Delhi as soon as he received news of it.

Soviet leaders had clearly been worried by the warming of Sino-Indian relations and the timing of Mr. Kosygin's visit, only three weeks after Mr. Vajpayee's scheduled return, was an indication of that concern.

But reaction here to China's punitive mission in Vietnam must give the Soviet Union hope that the offensive will block India's burgeoning contacts with Peking.

France: EMS could begin within days

PARIS, March 8 (R)--President Valery Giscard d'Estaing told the French cabinet yesterday that the European Monetary System (EMS) could start up next week, presidential sources said.

The EMS was originally scheduled to start on Jan. 1, but was delayed by France because of a disagreement with West Germany over Common Market farm pricing arrangements.

The president said the agreement reached on farm prices in Brussels recently by the eight Common Market countries participating in the EMS made it possible

for France to withdraw its reservations.

Britain alone among the Common Market nine is remaining outside the system.

British Agriculture Minister John Silkin resolved a compromise designed to end the disagreement between France and West Germany about border taxes and levies on trade in farm produce--known as monetary compensatory amounts (MCA's)--because it did not rule out price rises of surplus farm commodities.

France has now decided to disregard the British objection, and

will not permit it to stand in the way of the EMS, which is designed to keep Common Market currencies stable.

The president told the cabinet: "Because of the political agreement to dismantle monetary compensatory amounts reached by the eight countries participating in the European Monetary System, France withdraws its reservations and will propose to its partners that the European Monetary System should start from next week."

The compromise on the MCA's proposed by the Common Market Commission provides for a two-

phase reduction of any new MCA's introduced after the EMS comes into force.

France objects to the device because it considers that it subsidises West German farm exports while penalising those of France on the West German market.

Presidential spokesman Pierre Hunt told correspondents the EMS could start up during the Common Market summit meeting in Paris next Monday and Tuesday. Approval by the nine leaders meeting in Paris would not be needed to enable the EMS to come into force, he added.

Accordingly, Philips India will bring its foreign holdings down from 60 per cent to 40 per cent, now that the government has rejected its attempts to mitigate the effects of such a capital dilution. The Dutch group will change its name to Peico Electronics and Electricals, but the name of Philips will not suddenly disappear from the Indian scene; Peico will still receive support from Philips in Eindhoven and will carry on using its trade mark and emblem.

Other big concerns are more rigid in their attitudes to foreign markets. IBM, the U.S. computer company which dominates the world industry, decided after a long struggle to shut up shop in India rather than bow to the Indian Government's equity requirements. Its worldwide pol-

icy is to do business only on the basis of 100 per cent ownership. Coca Cola, too, opted to pull out.

Yet the vast majority of foreign groups in India--it was estimated in 1977 that India was host to 482 multinationals, with 319 from Britain and 88 from the U.S.--have accepted the terms of FERA, including Bayer, Unilever and Union Carbide, as well as Philips. Others such as Metal Box and Brooke Bond are now going through the necessary motions, although 36 companies have decided to move out.

Demonstrating the consistency of its global approach to indigenisation, IBM has pulled out of Nigeria, too, as the alternative course to agreeing to government demands that Nigerian citizens should own 40 per cent of its operations there. IBM also made a

reluctant exit from Indonesia late in 1977.

In Nigeria, where the U.K. is again the major investing country, the enterprise promotion decree promulgated back in 1972, and since revised, lays down three broad categories: small companies in fairly simple lines of business which should be wholly Nigerian-owned; those where the local holding should be at least 60 per cent; and those where the Nigerian holding should be no less than 40 per cent.

As in India and elsewhere, the tougher ownership rules have not stopped foreign capital from flowing in--four international motor companies, including Leyland, are building new plants in Nigeria--but they have not exactly made for a buoyant and optimistic investment scene. This points up

the dilemma facing countries still in the throes of industrialisation. While anxious to transfer significant slices of foreign-held equity to local hands, or to keep them there, they are also in great need of outside investment.

Clearly, it is not an easy problem to solve. But since most companies are not sticklers for 100 per cent foreign ownership, like IBM, there is usually room for compromise. Saudi Arabia, for instance, decided recently to double the tax holiday for joint ventures in the agricultural and industrial sectors.

It is not only in the less developed nations that attitudes towards foreign investment have a strong nationalistic tinge.

Australia is one country where policies towards outside companies have shown a bewildering inconsistency in past years. Under Gough Whitlam's Labour government, the foreign investor met with a distinctly chilly response, notably in the mining and resources areas.

Yet the prevailing mood has since shifted in favour of foreign capital under the Liberal-National Country Party administration of Malcolm Fraser, not surprisingly with a current account deficit of £1.7 billion expected for 1978-79.

Australian officials have been travelling the world preaching the virtues of this more welcoming attitude and the government has been doing its best to put this into practice. It has finally allowed British Petroleum to buy out its partner in the large Clutha Development coalmining operation in New South Wales for £120 million.

Under its agreement, BP has said it will work towards 50 per cent Australian participation over a number of years, in line with national policy requiring a local partner in major natural resources

sectors. The Australian Foreign Takeovers Act classes any company as foreign which has at least 15 per cent of its shares in outside hands or if the aggregate foreign holdings total 40 per cent or more.

Several bids ran into difficulties

last year over the requirement that local equity be retained or reintroduced.

Textrol of the U.S. only received the go-ahead for its bid for John Sands, a greeting card and printing group, by agreeing to keep a local equity component of at least a quarter, while the bid by Brooke Bond of the U.K. for the Bushells tea company was held up for similar reasons.

Another U.K. group, however, the Pilkington glass manufacturer, was allowed to buy 100 per cent of Solar, which makes lenses, because it intended to infuse this company with its own high technology.

It is clear from the varied conditions to which foreign operations are subject that leading companies are being simultaneously welcomed and held in check by governments. Along with the necessary entrepreneurial vigour, therefore, the multinational which hopes to continue prospering also requires a large dash of diplomacy.

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World News Briefs

China to allow permanent U.S. news bure

TOKYO, March 8 (AP)--The U.S. Embassy in Peking said it has been informed by the Chinese Foreign Ministry that permission will be given to the Associated Press and United Press International to open permanent bureaus in Peking within a week. An spokesman reached by telephone from Tokyo said each American news organization will be allowed to maintain two correspondents in the Chinese capital. A second group of American correspondents will be admitted in April, the embassy was told, but the organization were not identified.

Bangladesh announces election results

DACCA, March 8 (R)--The Nationalist Party of President Ziaul Haq won 207 seats in Bangladesh's new 300-member parliament, according to final election results announced last night. The elections took place on Feb. 18 but voting at three centres was disrupted and the seats were recontested on Tuesday. Of the opposition parties, the Awami League (Mujib) of former Sheikh Mujib Rahman won the most with 39 seats, followed by the rightist Muslim League-Islamic Democratic League with 18. President Zia has promised to inaugurate Bangladesh's second parliament since independence within a month of the announcement of the final poll. He is also to end three and a half years of martial law within a week of it sitting.

NATO believes defector had top secret de

BRUSSELS, March 8 (R)--Ursel Lorenzen, the NATO spokesman who defected to East Germany, is presumed to have taken top secret details of a command exercise now under way. NATO headquarters stressed that the alliance holds exercises to test its defence capabilities. Announcing the latest exercise last night, the East German news agency ADN said Major Lorenzen realised the current exercise, conducted on paper with movements, included a simulated nuclear attack on the Soviet Union. Codenamed "Wintex-Cimex '79", it is designed to test West's responses in the event of a nuclear emergency. The NATO statement said investigations into the damage to the secrets are still going on. Miss Lorenzen was a senior working for British diplomat Terence Moran, director of council operations, who is responsible for organising NATO's secret exercises.

Voyager 1 photo reveals ring around Jupiter

PASADENA, California, March 8 (R)--The Voyager 1 probe has discovered a ring around the giant planet Jupiter, reported yesterday. Dr. Bradford Smith, head of the planetary analysis team, told a press conference at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory here that the ring was made up of large particles take about seven hours to circle Jupiter. The ring, thought to be about 30 kilometres thick, probably thousands of kilometres wide, Dr. Smith said.

English, Austrian clubs win Cup matches

LONDON, March 8 (R)--Austria Wien and England's Nottingham Forest gained decisive home victories in their European Cup quarter-final matches last night, but both teams left it to the last minute. The Austrian champions were drawing 1-1 against Germany's Dynamo Dresden with only four minutes left, and Walter Schachner scored in the 87th and 90th minute victory. Dynamo had stunned the Austrian crowd by going into the lead early in the match although the dangerous Schachner quickly. Forest's fans were also silenced when Swiss club Grasshoppers Zurich swept ahead with Claudio Sulser's tie-breaker goal. The English club's ambition of becoming European Cup winners was fading fast, but Forest fought back to triumph 4-2, with Garry Gemmill and defender Larry Lloyd adding the third and fourth before the final whistle.

U.S. millionaire's divorce settlement highest ever

LOS ANGELES, March 8 (R)--U.S. sports millionaire Mr. Jack Kent Cooke will give half his fortune--estimated at up to \$100 million--to his former wife under the terms of a divorce settlement yesterday.

"It's the largest divorce settlement I've ever heard of," said the lawyer, Mr. Arthur Crowley. Asked about published estimates that Mr. Cooke's fortune came to \$100 million, he said: "It's not that far off."

Mr. Cooke, 66, who comes from a publishing family and several sports teams including the Los Angeles Kings (baseball), the Los Angeles Kings (football) and the Washington Redskins (football).

The 'Guinness Book of Records' lists the big settlement as \$9.5 million. Mr. Edward J. Hudson in Houston, Texas, is the record holder.

The terms of the divorce settlement, it eight days of out-of-court negotiations, will be played out in Los Angeles court record next few days for court.

Mr. Cooke, a Canadian citizen, took U.S. citizenship to avoid Canada's best tax rate.

He has a home in Bel-Air, a 16,000-acre ranch in the city and a home in which is his legal residence.

He started his career as a door-to-door salesman, teaming up with the Thomson of Fleet, one of Thomson's stations in Stamford, and made it pay, but his association with him after six years.

Before building a U.S. sporting empire, Mr. Cooke's biggest success was a Toronto company which was regular for packing its air in music and commerce.

He owned two major publications in his ambitious newspaper in Canada, the "Financial Times" and "Financial News".

He has a strong interest in the oil company, "Caltex".



Artistry in silver

BREMEN -- Prizes awarded to victorious sportsmen have not changed much over the years: trays, cups and chalices made of silver, usually handmade and artistically engraved. Pictured are creations by West German silversmiths Koch and Bergfeld, who have made an international reputation for their trophies. (DAD photo)

Arab countries said to have potential for mining uranium

ABU DHABI, March 8 (R)--Arab countries could ultimately find they have recoverable uranium reserves totalling as much as half a million tonnes, an Arab energy conference was told yesterday.

Mr. J. Cameron, of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said in a paper presented to the meeting that at least six Arab countries had potential for mining the fuel.

Algeria and Somalia at present had the highest declared reserves, estimated at about 28,000 tonnes and 6,200 tonnes respectively, he said.

Other countries with moderate or good prospects for finding uranium included Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

Morocco hoped to develop its uranium ore mining and would be seeking financial aid from richer Arab countries, Professor Adnan Mustafa of Damascus University said.

Among a number of Arab nations planning to use nuclear power, Egypt in particular estimated that nuclear energy could contribute 39 per cent of its planned generating capacity by the end of the century, Professor Musa said.

The assistant secretary-general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), Mr. Mohammad Sayid Amin, said that Arab states must act now to avert an energy crisis by the end of the century.

"Two-thirds of the Arab nations which are today secure against an energy crisis will find their position reversed unless there is joint Arab action on developing alternative energy sources," he told the conference.

"The crisis will then hit all Arab countries."

U.K. talks raise hopes for resumption of The Times

LONDON, March 8 (R)--Hopes rose today that The Times of London, Britain's oldest and most influential daily newspaper, would be published again after a silence lasting more than three months.

The first ray of hope since the Times newspaper group suspended publication last Nov. 30 emerged early today after all-night talks, chaired by Employment Minister Albert Booth, between labour unions and management.

An Employment Department spokesman said the marathon session ended in an agreement to begin talks aimed at achieving a settlement. "The agreement is to get together and find a way over their current disagreements," he added.

The Times group, which also publishes the Sunday Times and several specialist reviews, suspended publication after failing to come into force, he added.

The dispute had threatened to harden because the Times group was due on March 13 to sack a further 1,400 of its 3,000 employees.

Earlier attempts at negotiations failed because union leaders refused to meet the Times management unless it withdrew its dismissal notice.

Mr. Booth declined to reveal details of the agreement under which management and unions had decided to start negotiations, but described it as a breakthrough.

It is not only in the less developed nations that attitudes towards foreign investment have a strong nationalistic tinge.

Australia is one country where policies towards outside companies have shown a bewildering inconsistency in past years.

Under Gough Whitlam's Labour government, the foreign investor met with a distinctly chilly response, notably in the mining and resources areas.

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